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Service conditions of Maistris in the Public Works and Highways Departments.

* 192 *Q.*—Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether maistris of the Public Works and Highways Departments are treated as regular Government servants;

(*b*) whether they are eligible for confirmation, leave, allowance and service conditions as other Government servants; and

(*c*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House a copy of the Rules governing the service conditions of maistris of the Public Works and Highways Departments?

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Maistris in the Public Works Department required continuously for the normal work of the Department are treated as regular Government servants. The question of according similar treatment to the maistris, now designated as Road Inspectors, in the Highways Department is under examination.

" (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative in respect of the maistris in the Public Works Department treated as regular Government servants. Other maistris in the Public Works Department who have not been brought on to regular establishment who are employed only casually with reference to the needs of expanding and contracting programmes and Road Maistris in the Highways Department are not eligible for the benefits.

" (*c*) A copy [a] of the existing rules governing the conditions of service of the Maistris in the Electrical Engineer (General) Division of the Public Works Department treated as regular Government servants is placed on the table of the House. The question of issuing service rules in respect of such maistris in the Irrigation, General and Buildings branches of the Public Works Department and of the Road Inspectors in the Highways Department is under consideration."

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know, Sir, if these maistris are treated as those coming under superior service or they are classified as coming under inferior service? "

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Inferior service, Sir."

Sri V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY :—" May I know whether those people are kept as casual labourers, whether they will be confirmed in their present job and if so how long will it take? " 3-50 p.m.

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 155–159 infra.

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THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" In the Public Works Department, we have regularised certain sections. There are some casual labourers whom we employ according as we take up our expansion programmes. In the Highways department, the matter of regularising their appointments is under consideration."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of extending the rules applied to the maistris in the Public Works Department to those in the Highways Department also? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" That is under the active consideration of the department, Sir."

Overtime allowance to the employees of the Madras Government Press.

*193 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the employees of the Madras Government Press are asked to work overtime daily, and if so, the necessity for the same ; and

(*b*) the total amount of (i) salary and (ii) overtime allowance paid monthwar to the technical employees of the Press from April 1954 to October 1954?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" As more than 50 per cent of their salary is paid as overtime allowance, may I know whether it will not be better and more profitable to have regular employees during the regular working hours instead of resorting to overtime work? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, we are short of some machinery. That is the reason for our resorting to overtime work. Anyway, it is an attraction for the workers. Once we expand the Press and get sufficient machinery we can employ regular workers on a permanent basis."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works enlighten us as to whether there is any authority watching the need for such overtime work? Will the Government take effective steps to keep down the expenditure on overtime work by prescribing a return and having a check over such overtime allowances paid at Government level? "

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 160 infra.